

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A steam cooker, comprising:

a steam generator for generating steam;

a steam temperature-raising device for raising a temperature of steam coming from the steam generator; and

a heating chamber in which an object to be cooked is heated by steam supplied from the steam temperature-raising device,

said steam generator including:

a pot to which water is supplied;

a heater placed in the pot; and

a plurality of state judging devices placed in the pot and judging an exposed state of the heater from the water in the pot.

2. (Withdrawn) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein

the pot of the steam generator has a planar shape of generally an elongated rectangle, and

the plurality of state judging devices are placed at opposed side surfaces in the pot.

3. (Withdrawn) The steam cooker according to claim 2, wherein

the opposed side surfaces in the pot at which the plurality of state judging devices are placed correspond to short sides of the elongated rectangle of the pot.

4. (Withdrawn) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein

at least one of the plurality of state judging devices is a water level sensor.

5. (Withdrawn) The steam cooker according to claim 4., wherein
the water level sensor is a self-heating thermistor.

6. (Currently Amended) A steam generator, comprising:

a pot to which water is supplied;

a heater placed in the pot; and

a water level sensor that detects a level of the water contained in the pot;

a temperature sensor that detects a temperature inside the pot; and

a controller that detects whether the heater has been exposed from the water based on an output
from the water level sensor and an output from the temperature sensor,

wherein the water level sensor is a self-heating thermistor~~plurality of state judging devices placed~~
in the pot and judging an exposed state of the heater from the water in the pot.

7. (Original) The steam generator according to claim 6, wherein

the pot has a planar shape of generally an elongated rectangle, and

the plurality of state judging devices are placed at opposed side surfaces in the pot.

8. (Original) The steam generator according to claim 7, wherein

the opposed side surfaces in the pot at which the plurality of state judging devices are placed correspond to short sides of the elongated rectangle of the pot.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The steam generator according to claim 6, wherein the steam generator is provided in a steam cooker, the steam cooker including,

a steam temperature-raising device for raising a temperature of steam coming from the steam generator, and

a heating chamber in which an object to be cooked is heated by steam supplied from the steam temperature-raising device.

12. (New) The steam generator according to claim 6, further comprising:

a pump that supplies water into the pot,

wherein the controller operates that pump when the controller determines that the heater has been exposed from the water.

13. (New) The steam generator according to claim 6, further comprising:

a partition plate disposed between the water level sensor and the heater to prevent water bubbles generated by the heater from making contact with the water level sensor.

14. (New) The steam generator according to claim 13, wherein

the partition plate defines a space that defines a space for accommodating the water level sensor while allowing the water in the pot to enter into the space.

15. (New) The steam generator according to claim 13, wherein

the partition plate is spaced apart from the heater.

16. (New) The steam generator according to claim 6, wherein
the controller determines that the pot has been tilted based on the output from the water level
sensor and the output from the temperature sensor.

17. (New) The steam generator according to claim 6, wherein
the heater has substantially flat configuration and placed horizontally inside the pot, and at least
one of the water level sensor and the temperature sensor is disposed above an upper surface of the heater.

18. (New) A steam cooker, comprising:
the steam generator according to claim 6;
a steam temperature-raising device for raising a temperature of steam coming from the steam
generator; and
a heating chamber in which an object to be cooked is heated by steam supplied from the steam
temperature raising device.